

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-9 and 22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3 and 4 are amended and claim 22 is added. The amendments and added claim introduce no new matter. Support for amended claim 1 can be found, for example, in paragraph [0032] - paragraph [0043] of the specification. Claims 3 and 4 are amended for form. Support for new claim 22 can be found, for example, in paragraphs [0044] - [0050]. Claims 10 and 13-21 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in those claims. Reconsideration of the rejection in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, on page 2, rejects claims 1-10 and 13-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,330,786 to Settle in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,597,649 to Sandor et al. (hereinafter "Sandor"). The cancellation of claims 10 and 13-21 renders the rejection of these claims moot. The rejection of claims 1-9 is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites fiber materials having improved qualities required for clothes characterized by comprising polyamide fiber containing 0.01 to 5.0% of titanium oxide based on total fiber weight, and silk fiber. The combination of Settle and Sandor cannot reasonably be considered to have suggested these features.

The Office Action alleges that Settle teaches a woven fabric comprising a yarn that includes polyamide and silk in a state of mutual contact. This assertion is incorrect. Settle only discloses a yarn comprising buffalo hair and a single fiber. Settle discloses that the single fiber may be selected from a group that consists of silk and polyamide. Settle does not teach a fiber that contains both polyamide and silk. As such, the combination of Settle and Sandor fails to suggest all of the features positively recited in independent claims 1 and 22, at least on these grounds.

Moreover, the Office Action fails where it asserts that Sandor remedies the deficiencies of Settle. As noted above, independent claim 1 recites polyamide fiber containing 0.01 to 5.0% by weight of titanium oxide. The Office Action asserts that Sandor teaches that it is well known to use titanium oxide in nylon fibers. This assertion is incorrect for the following reasons.

Sandor discloses a composite yarn that comprises at least two different kinds of fiber in the yarn: (1) a high modulus fiber; and (2) a particle-filled fiber (see, e.g., col. 1, lines 48-55). Sandor further discloses examples of high modulus fibers, i.e., polyamides (see, e.g., col. 2, lines 18-21). Sandor also discloses that the particle-filled fiber may include a titanium oxide (see, e.g., col. 3, lines 18-29). Importantly, Sandor merely discloses titanium oxide as an example of the particle-filled fiber, but does not teach that the polyamide fiber that may be selected for the high modulus fiber contains titanium oxide, much less fiber material containing a polyamide fiber containing titanium oxide and a silk fiber. As such, for at least these reasons, Sandor fails to remedy the deficiencies of Settle.

For the totality of the above discussion, the combination of Settle and Sandor cannot reasonably be considered to have suggested the combinations of all of the features positively recited in independent claim 1. Further, claims 2-9 also would not have been suggested for at least the respective dependence of these claims directly or indirectly on an allowable independent claim 1, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter each of these claims recite.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claims 1-9 are respectfully requested.

Claim 22 is at least allowable for the reasons set forth above regarding claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-9 and 22 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Timothy S. Smith  
Registration No. 58,355

JAO:TSS/eks

Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination

Date: October 29, 2007

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 320850**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

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